

ACTION

AGENDA ITEM: System Advisory Board

ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING: SAB Member Attendance at CLA Annual Conference.

RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD: I move that the Library of California Board approve the use of 2002/03 allocated SAB Program funds, where available within each approved SAB budget, and where requested, to reimburse one SAB member from each System for expenses incurred in attending the November 2002 Library of California Board meeting and the California Library Association conference to be held in Sacramento.

BACKGROUND:

In past years the State Board has approved the use of CLSA System Advisory Board (SAB) Program funds allotted to Systems to support the costs of attendance by one SAB member per System at the annual conference of the California Library Association (CLA). SAB members have reported worthwhile benefits from attending the CLA conference in past years, citing the gaining of a wider understanding of library issues and trends and the opportunity to interact with SAB members from other areas of the State as particularly useful. It is recommended that the Library of California Board approve blanket attendance for one SAB member from each System to attend the November 2002 CLA conference and the November 2002 LoC Board meeting being held in Sacramento, provided that travel funds are available from within the currently approved System SAB budget to support the cost of such attendance. State Board policy has been to consider approval of SAB member attendance at the CLA conference on a year-by-year basis.

Staff recommends that the Board continue its practice of encouraging System Advisory Board members to attend the CLA annual conference and the November Library of California Board meeting.

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS: The System Advisory Board Program continues to make available to Systems a means of directly incorporating citizen advice in planning and delivering System services. A report on the mandated activities and workload estimated, abstracted from 2002/03 System Plans of Service, will be compiled for the August Board meeting.

The 2002/03 CLSA Local Assistance appropriation currently in the Budget Bill is identical to the current year's funding.

TRANSITION PROCESS: Staff requests guidance from the Library of California Board in preparing a plan for the transition of this program to the Library of California for Board consideration. The Library of California Act does not include a regional library network user advisory board similar to the CLSA System Advisory Boards. However, the Act does require that each regional library network Council include a library user from each type of member library and that each regional library network Board of Directors include at least one library user. These Board members represent library users in the region and have the same status and voting rights as the library members of the network. These requirements appear to have the same intent as the CLSA System Advisory Board Program, which is to provide a mechanism to involve the user community in the planning and development of services, to foster communication between the administrative bodies and library users, and to ensure that the network's services meet the needs of its users. The establishment and related duties of regional library network Councils and Boards are included in the mandatory Administration program element of the Library of California, and therefore that program would be the most likely target area for transitioning this particular CLSA program into the multitype network of the Library of California.

This would not prevent a regional library network from also establishing an advisory committee of representatives from its member libraries' user communities, if it wished to take such action.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE: Summary of SAB workload estimates and mandated activities for 2002/03 (August).

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Sandy Habbestad